

and our communities have greatly benefited from his ministry. This past weekend, Archbishop Apuron led a pilgrimage from Guam to Washington, DC, for the enshrinement of Our Lady of Camarin, the Patroness of the Marianas, in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Many of these pilgrims, Madam Speaker, from Guam are with us today in the gallery.

I thank Archbishop Apuron for his prayer this afternoon and for his guidance and counsel throughout the years. The people of Guam join me in thanking you, Madam Speaker, and our House chaplain, Father Daniel Coughlin, for the invitation to Archbishop Apuron to serve as guest chaplain.

I thank you. Si Yuos Maase. God bless America and God bless Guam.

POLITICIZING THE WAR ON TERROR

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to challenge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. They continue to pound the drums and politicize the war on terror and unnecessarily criticize the administration. Yet they have no plan or any indication of one for how they would make our Nation more secure.

As the President said last week in his press conference, he wakes up every day to a thorough intelligence briefing that informs of the actions of numerous Islamofascists and others whose only goal is to destroy America, our freedoms and our way of life. He must respond to those threats.

The President is not politicizing the war on terror. He is simply carrying out his duty to protect and defend this Nation and constructing plans to ensure that our Nation is safer from potential terrorist attacks, and thus far it has been. As we all know, there has been no attack on American soil since 9/11, but many attempts have been thwarted.

This is not, and should not be, a political issue, and it is time for the Democrats to stop trying to make it one. This is about national security, and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle need to realize what is at stake here.

IN MEMORY OF ESTHER MARTINEZ

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the memory of a very special New Mexican, Esther Martinez.

Esther Martinez is renowned for her work as an educator, author and master story teller.

Last Thursday, Esther was in Washington, DC, where I had the privilege of

helping present her with the Nation's highest honor for folk and traditional artists. At the age of 94, Esther was named as a 2006 National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts. With members of her family in the audience, Esther rose to be honored and received a standing ovation for her life's work preserving her native Tewa language and traditions.

Tragically, while making her way back home from the airport Saturday evening, Esther was killed in a traffic accident.

Our hearts weigh heavy with the news of Esther's tragic passing, but her legacy will forever live in the contributions she made to our Nation as an educator, linguist and master story teller.

Our deepest sympathies are with her family today.

THE POPE AND FREE SPEECH AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, over the last few days, radical Muslims burned the Pope in effigy, destroyed churches in Israel, preached hatred against the Pope and Christians, and cowardly killed a 65-year-old nun, shooting her four times in the back. So much for nonviolence by these radical Muslims.

All this because the Pope quoted a Byzantine emperor from the 1400s who commented on Muhammad's purported command "to spread by the sword the faith he preached." The Pope, of course, was not agreeing with this Byzantine emperor. The Pope was promoting discourse among all religions.

But when the feelings of these radicals get hurt, we overreact, blame ourselves and apologize. That is what the Pope did.

I question whether the Pope should have even apologized. So much for free speech, so much for religious freedom, and so much for nonviolence.

In our world, hypocritical, radical Muslims may preach hate and violence against Christians and Jews, but heaven forbid anybody mention or quote slightly negative comments about radical Muslims, because this extremist sect will react with violence to prove just how nonviolent they are.

And that's just the way it is.

A CRITICAL TIME FOR THE PEOPLE OF DARFUR

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, this week marks a critical time for the people of Darfur and for this administration's role in ending the 3-year genocide in Sudan. Hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians have been murdered by the government-backed Janjaweed, and the African

Union's peacekeeping mission mandate is set to expire within a couple of weeks.

It has been 2 years since the President declared that genocide was taking place in Darfur, but we are still allowing the Government of Sudan to act with impunity and commit crimes against humanity.

Today President Bush addressed the crisis in Darfur before the United Nations and appointed Andrew Natsios as the U.S.' Special Envoy to Sudan. This is a step in the right direction, but it is not enough. The United States must push to keep an international peacekeeping force in Darfur, and this force must be stronger and more robust, with the authority to use force to protect the innocent civilians who are trapped in this nightmare. This has to happen as quickly as possible.

Would we be this complacent if the genocide was not in Africa? Would the administration act any differently if claims of ethnic cleansing were in Europe or the Middle East? What in the world does it take for us to stand tall against the evil of genocide wherever it is taking place?

We have to act before September 30. We have to require that President el-Bashir stop the indiscriminate killing and slaughter of the helpless and the weak in his country.

RECOGNIZING CONSTITUTION DAY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Sunday marked the 219th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. To ensure our schoolchildren are educated about our Nation's founding, Congress requires each school to hold an education program observing Constitution Day.

Yesterday, schoolchildren across the country watched as General Colin Powell led the Nationwide recitation of the Preamble. Students at Brookland-Cayce High School in Lexington County's School District 2 hung banners around the school displaying the Bill of Rights. Each senior received a pocket-sized Constitution.

Principal Scott Newman should be commended for his commitment to ensuring students at BC High are well-versed in our Nation's history. He was raised well by his parents, dedicated educators, Tom and Frankie Newman.

As Cicero said, "To remain ignorant of things that happened before you were born is to remain a child." If the goal of Constitution Day is realized, our Nation's schoolchildren will grow into engaged adult citizens.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

GOLDEN DRAIN AWARDS TO CHERTOFF AND RUMSFELD

(Mr. CARDOZA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)